

LEWIS AND CLARK LAKE SEDIMENT MANAGEMENT STUDY

An Army Corps of Engineers and Missouri River Recovery Program project



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Omaha District



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The deposition of sediments in reservoirs along the main stem of the Missouri River is an important concern for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, particularly at Lewis and Clark Lake. Sedimentation at the lake has led to a loss of storage capacity, which impacts species habitat, recreation, private property and infrastructure of both the lake and the Missouri River.

In response to current and future impacts to the lake, the Corps is conducting the Lewis and Clark Lake Sediment Management Study (LCLSMS) to examine ways of restoring the balance of sediment in the lake and river.

This document will help answer some of the most commonly asked questions about the study.



Why is the Corps conducting this study?

The Corps is the lead agency responsible for managing the Missouri River and all lakes, reservoirs and structures associated with it.

The Corps has initiated this particular study for two reasons.

- ♦ Sediment deposition in all Missouri River reservoirs is a concern to the Corps, especially at Lewis and Clark Lake. Completing this investigation is a prudent step in developing the best long-term management plan for the lake.
- ♦ The Missouri River Biological Opinion, issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2003, requires the Corps to study the feasibility of sediment movement to create species habitat in the open water sections of the river.

What is the objective of the study?

The objective of the study is to examine the engineering viability of alternatives that would transport sediment through the reservoir to the river downstream. This study does not include a socioeconomic analysis or an environmental assessment. If this initial study produces a practical engineering solution, further phases of study will be planned.



How will the lake and river benefit from this study? What is the end result?

This study is the first step in developing a long-term management plan for the lake. Properly managing sediment in the area will help maintain and improve species habitat, species populations, recreation opportunities, navigation channels, hydropower and flood control.

How long will the study take?

The study was initiated in 2006 and is scheduled for completion in 2009. The study is currently on schedule.

How much is the study going to cost?

The current estimate for the project is between \$1.5 and \$2 million. Funding for this study will be used for several tasks, such as:

- ♦ collecting data;
- ♦ employing computer models to analyze the river from Fort Randall Dam to Sioux City, Iowa;
- ♦ monitoring key resources of the lake and river; and
- ♦ coordinating with the public and government agencies.



How is the study being funded?

The study is being funded through the Missouri River Recovery Program, a partnership between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Program is funding restoration projects along the entire Missouri River.

How does this investigation relate to the efforts of the Missouri River Sediment Coalition and Dr. Howard Coker's research?

The Corps is studying sediment flushing as an alternative to the plan proposed by Dr. Coker. Several of the study elements, particularly the downstream studies, are complementary to Dr. Coker's work. The models being developed could be used to evaluate a wide range of alternatives, including the one proposed by Dr. Coker.

Does this study include a physical test, such as a drawdown (lowering water elevation) or flush (increasing river flow to remove sediment)?

No. Due to time constraints and the prolonged drought, a physical test is not possible at this time. However, if the results of the modeling produce a practical engineering solution, a physical test will be designed as part of this study. Implementation of the physical test will require the completion of detailed environmental analyses, such as an Environmental Impact Statement. The EIS would gather public and agency input to properly assess the environmental, economic, social and cultural impacts of the test.

Will the study affect my use of the lake or river?

No. This study involves only data collection and analyzing the lake and river using computer models. No physical modifications of the area are necessary with this study.

If this part of the study is examining engineering viability, how can I help?

You can help the Corps by providing input on what possible sediment management scenarios you would like the Corps to examine, as well as changes you would like to see in the reservoir delta reach. The Corps will use this input to develop possible sediment management solutions.

YOUR COMMENTS

Interested parties can comment on the present phase of the Lewis and Clark Lake Sediment Management Study in several ways:

- ♦ Submit a written comment at the public meeting
- ♦ Present an oral comment at the public meeting
- ♦ Mail comments to:
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District
CENWO-ED-HF, Lewis and Clark Lake Sediment Management Study
Paul M. Boyd, P.E., 106 S. 15th Street, Omaha, NE 68102

To ensure your comments are considered in the development of management alternatives, please submit them no later than July 1, 2007.